

LACERTA PLATURA,



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus tetrapodum, caudatum, nudum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 359.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LACERTA cauda depresso-plana lanceolata, margine subaculeato, corpore griseo-fusco scabro.

Ungues quasi duplicati: lingua brevis, lata, integra, seu non forficata; apice autem leniter emarginato.

Lacertam Platuram, quam nuperrime detectam generavit Nova Hollandia, insigniter distinguit cauda depressa et complanata, margine tenuissimo, sensim in acutum apicem decrescens. Rarissima est in genere hæc caudæ planities, nec accidit nisi duabus vel tribus speciebus. Uncias quatuor cum semissè paulum superat longitudine Platura. Caput magnum pro corpore. Tota superior superficies tuberculis parvis exasperatur, quæ in aliquibus partibus, versus occiput præcipue et caudam, in mucrones acuminatos extenduntur. Inferior superficies pallida est, seu albescens.

THE
BROAD-TAILED LIZARD.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body four-footed, tailed, naked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

LIZARD with a depressed lanceolate tail, almost spiny on the margin; the body of a dusky grey color, and rough.

The claws appear as if double; the tongue is short and broad, not forked, but slightly emarginated at the tip.

The *Lacerta Platura* or broad-tailed Lizard, a species very lately discovered, and which is a native of New Holland, is strikingly distinguished by the uncommon form of its tail, which is of a depressed or flattened shape, with very thin edges, and gradually tapers to a sharp extremity. This depressed form of the tail is extremely rare in lizards, there being scarcely more than two or three other species in which a similar structure takes place. This lizard is somewhat more than four inches and a half in length; the head is large in proportion; and the whole upper surface of the animal is beset with small tubercles, which in some parts, especially towards the back of the head, and about the tail, are lengthened into sharpened points. The lower surface is of a pale color, or nearly white.

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